Daily Union & American.

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EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS

SUNDAY, MORNING, DEC. 11, 1853.

A variety of miscellaneous reading will be found on the first page.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

after getting it in type, and must reserve comments for another occasion.

THE RAILROAD QUESTION.

It seems that the Mayor and Aldermen, unable to agree how the vote of the city on account of the stock owned by it in the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad shall be cast, have resolved to submit the question to the people on next Tuesday. We will not permit ourselves to doubt that the answer in favor of the "old board" will be very emphatic .-Their management may not have been perfect, for they are mortal men; but that it has been eminently wise, energetic, and successful no unprejudiced man can doubt. Their superiors as men of business capacity and incorruptible integrity cannot be found in the community. Their success in the face of apparently insurmountable obstacles is a monument of which they may well be proud. To reject these men, who have so long and wisely labored for the prosperity of the city, would be a disgrace to her citizens. It is a very easy matter to find fault, and for an unstart critic to say that this and that thing might have been better done. But no candid man will seek only to pick out little flaws in the management of so stupendous a work, and disregard the wisdom and forecast which planned and has steadily carried it forward to its completion. If it is necessary to overlook any minor errors of judgment on the part of the present directory, what a vost volume of errors should we have had to excuse | see how promptly disaster made true neighbors of had their present critics been directors in their

It is said that the directory have spent too much money. And yet it is undoubtly true that the serret springs of the attempt to supplant this directory lie in their refusal to pay to certain contractors as much money as those contractors claim to be

It is said that the election of Mr. Honn as Mayor and of certa n Aldermen was a decision against the present board! Not a bit of it! Mr. Horn should be modest enough to remember that he is a minority mayor, having received little more than a third of the votes cast; and we doubt if half of those who voted for him were ever told that they were thus voting against the present board, and for old Dr. Armstrongs', men. Certain it is, that we ourselves voted for one of the aldermen who now uses this argument, when we would have seen him in Dr. Armstrong's mill-pond before voting for him if he had only let us into his secret before hand.

It is but simple truth to say, that no road in the United States of equal extent has ever been as cheaply built as his the Nashville and Chattanooga road. It is a wonder, considering the formidable obstacles it has encountered, in a comparatively new and sparsely settled country, that it has been built. It has succeeded because its directory were to know no such word as fail. To supplant them | is instructed to enter into negotiations on that subjust when their labors are about to be brought to a | ject. brilliantly successful termination-to supplant V. K. STEVENSON, ALEX. ALLISON, FRANCIS B. FOGG, S. D. MORGAN, JAS. B. KNOWLES, E. H. EWING, W. SPENCE, JOHN M. BASS, LEWIS GARNER, JOHN T. | sitting in London for the transaction of business. NEAL, JEREMIAH CLEVELAND, A. M. RUTLEDGE, THOMAS POWERS, PETER S. DECHARD, and JAMES A. WHITESIDE, with Dr. Armstrong and such other gentlemen as he may dictate, is something which Mr. Mayor Hons will pardon us for saying he was never elected to do, and what, if done by her vote, would be a shame and a disgrace to the city.

NEARLY A THOUSAND A DAY.

The Pittsburg Post says, that, during the year 1852, 300,992 alien passengers landed at the port of New York alone, with a view to find a permanent home in this country. Nearly a thousand per day thus added to our population from abroad. A large portion of them bring some money and property with them; and nearly all bring strong arms for labor, and warm hearts towards the land they have come so far to inhabit. But a few months have elapsed since they came; yet any one who would now find all that 300,000 people, would have to search through all our cities; over all our railroad lines and canals, and harvest fields, from Maine to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. They have scattered over the land, become absorbed in the great mass of thronging and thriving human life; are helping to build our cities and public improvements, and carry forward the line of civilization over the wide and fruitful domains of the West. That 300,-000 would people one entire new State.

The following table shows that 300,418 were from Europe; and the different countries from which

From								
Germany -		118,611	Spain					471
Ireland	+-	118,181	Italy					859
England		81,551	Poland			*		198
France -		8,568	Denmark	. 3	4			157
Scotland -		7,694	Belgium					82
Switzerland .		6,471	Sardinia		9 -			69
Walen -	100	2,581	Sicily			196	*	42
Sweden	160	2,008	Pertugal		- 1			.87
Norway -		1.898	Russia	-	. 18			88
37 -1 - 2		1.007						

Of these 8,370 were admitted in the Marine Hospotil, after a few days residence in the country.

They are of races generally that make good citizens in a free land. Their children will be Americans by birth; and themselves Americans by free choice. We welcome them to a share of the general prosperity and happiness.

This year the immigration to all our ports will not be less than half a million; and in the next ten years doubtless not much less than six millions. These added to the native births after deducting the deaths will make the population of the United States in 1862, probably 35,000,000.

The immigration from China to the western coast will probably diminish instead of increasing. The harsh treatment they suffer in California is inducing most of the Chinese, who have already arrived there to return to their own country; and they will no doubt earry back a bad report of our people. This is matter for regret; as we are seeking favorable commercial relations with China. But the Chinese race is not the one desired in peopling this continent. Europe furnishes better stock, and in sufficient numbers. Transplanted to our teeming soil; intermingled with each other, and the native people; a population will be developed, unequalled in the history of the human race, for vigor and courage; for enterprise and intelligence.

NUTS FOR ABOLITIONISTS TO CRACK.-Sometime last fall, says the Maysville Express, the Hon. R. H. Stanton permitted his negro woman to go to New Richmond, Ohio, to see her relations at that place, The Abolitionists of that place prevented her rethere, she wrote to her master, requesting him to come for her; that she was unhappy, and wanted to come home. Her husband, soon after it was ascercome bome. Her husband, soon after it was ascersuls of the respective governments at that place. tained that she had left, followed her, and has joined Pursuant to that agreement he has been released as to those things in which the States have a comher in Canada. He writes home that the man who abducted his wife, stole all her money and jewelry, and left her to starve. They both express a warm design to return home. In their newfound land of treedom, they have to work harder, and fare worse than in slave Kentucky.

Pursuant to that agreement he has been released and is now on his way to the United States. The Emperor of Austrants issued under of fand warrants issued under of fand warrants issued under of grave complaint. Begarding Koszta as still his subject, and claiming the right to seize him without having entered upon the limits of the Turkish empire, he has demanded of this government its consent to the surrender of the several States. There is

public anticipate the assembling of Congress, and the fulfilment, on that occasion, of the duty imposed upon a new President, is one of the best evi ences of their especity to realize the hones of the founders of a political system, at once complex and symmetrical. While the different branches of the government are, to a certain extent, independent of | demands of the Emperor of Austria has been deeach other, the duties of all, alike have direct reference to the source of power Fortunately, under this system, no man is so high, and none so humble, in the scale of public station, as to escape from the scrutiny, or to be exempt from the responsibili-

Having held our paper open for the message, we are compelled to put it to press at the earliest moment in a government thus organized, is the sole reliance of the confederacy, and the only security for honest and earnest devotion to its interests, against the usurpations and encroachments of power on the one hand, and the assaults of personal ambition on

The interest, of which I have spoken, is insepstable from an inquiring, self-governing community, out stimulated, doubtless, at the present time, by the unsettled condition of our relations with several oreign powers; by the new obligations resulting from a sudden extension of the field of enterprise; by the spirit with which that field has been entered, and the amazing energy with which its resources

Although disease, assuming at one time the characteristics of a wide-spread and devasting pestilence, has left its sad traces upon some portions of our country, we have still the most abundant cause for reverent thankfulness to God for an accumulation of signal mercies showered upon us as a nation. It is well that a consciousness of rapid advancement and increasing strength be habitually associated with an abiding sense of dependence upon Him who holds in his hands the destiny of men and of

Recognizing the wisdom of the broad principle of absolute religious toleration proclaimed in our fundamental law, and rejoicing in the benign influence which it has exerted upon our social and political condition, I should shrink from a clear duty, did I fail to express my deepest conviction, that we can place no secure reliance upon any apparent progress, if it be not sustained by national integrity, resting upon the great truths affirmed and illustrated by divine revelation. In the midst of our sorrow for the afflicted and suffering, it has been consoling to districts and cities separated widely from each other, and cheering to watch the strength of that common bond of brotherhood, which unites all hearts, in all parts of this Union, when danger threatens from abroad, or calamity impends over us at home. Our diplomatic relations with foreign powers have undergone no essential change since the ad-journment of the last Congress. With some of them, questions of a disturbing character are still

these may all be amicably adjusted. For some years past, Great Britain has so construed the first article of the convention of the 20th of April, 1818, in regard to the fisheries on the northeastern coast, as to exclude our citizens from some of the fishing grounds, to which they freely resorted for nearly a quarter of a century subsequent to the date of that treaty. The United States have never acquiesced in this construction, but have always claimed for their fishermen all the rights which they had so long enjoyed without molestation. With a view to remove all difficulties on the subject, to extend the rights of our fishermen beyoud the limits fixed by the convention of 1818, and to regulate trade between the United States and the British North American provinces, a negotiation has been opened, with a fair prospect of a favorable result. To protect our fishermen in the enjoyment of their rights, and prevent collision between them and British fishermen, I deemed it expedient to station a naval force in that quarter during the fish-

ing season. Embarrassing questions have also arisen between the two governments in regard to Central America. Great Britain has proposed to settle them by an en of iron energy and resolution, who determined | amicable arrangement, and our minister at London

> A commission for adjusting the claims of our citizens against Great Britain, and those of British sobjects against the United States, organized under the convention of the 8th of February last, is now It is in many respects desirable that the boundary

line between the United States and the British provinces in the northwest, as designated in the convention of the 15th June, 1846, and especially that part which separates the Territory of Washington from the British possessions on the north, should be traced and marked. I therefore present the subject to your notice.

With France our relations continue on the most friendly footing. The extensive commerce between the United States and that country might, it is conceived. be released from some unnecessary restrictions, to the mutual advantage of both parties .-With a view to this object, some progress has been made in negotiating a treaty of commerce and nav-

Independently of our valuable trade with Spain, we have important political relations with her growing out of our neighborhood to the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico. I am happy to announce that since the last Congress no attempts have been made, by unauthorized expeditions within the Uni ted States, against either of those colonies. Should any movement be manifested within our limits, all the means at my command will be vigorously exerted to repress it. Several annoying occurrences have taken place at Havana, or in the vicinity of the island of Cuba, between our citizens and the Spanish authorities.

Considering the proximity of that island to our shores,-lying, as it does, in the track of trade between some of our principal cities,—and the suspi-cious vigilance with which foreign intercourse, particularly that with the United States, is there guarded, a repetition of such occurrences may well be apprehended. As no diplomatic intercouse is allowed between our consul at Havana and the Captain General of Cuba, ready explanations cannot be made, or prompt redress afforded, where injury has resulted. All complaint on the part of our citizens, under the present arragement, must be, in the first place, presented to this government, and then referred to Spain. Spain again refers it to her local authorities in Cuba for investigation, and postpones an answer till she has heard from those auth To avoid these irritating and vexatious delays, a proposition has been made to provide for a direct appeal for redress to the Captain General by our al, in behalf of our injured fellow-citizens,-Hitherto, the government of Spain has declined to enter into any such arrangement. This course on her part is deeply regretted; for, without some arrangement of this kind, the good understanding between the two countries may be exposed to occasional interruption. Our minister at Madrid is instructed to renew the proposition, and to press it again upon the consideration of her Catholic Ma-

iesty's government. For several years Spain has been calling the attention of this government to a claim for losses, by some of her subjects, in the case of the schooner Amistad. This claim is believed to rest on the obligations imposed by our existing treaty with that country. Its justice was admittled, in our diplomatic ndence with the Spanish government, as early as March, 1847; and one of my predecessors, in his annual message that year, recommended that provision should be made for its payment. In Janpary last it was again submitted to Congress by the Executive. It has received a favorable consideration by committees of both branches, but as yet there has been no final action upon it. I conceive that good faith requires its prompt adjustment, and present it to your early and favorable considera-

Martin Kostza, a Hungarian by birth, came to

this country in 1850, and declared his intention, in due form of law, to become a citizen of the United States. After remaining here nearly two years, he visited Turkey. While at Smyrna, he was forcibly seized taken on board an Austrian brig of war, then lying in the harbor of that place, and there confined in irons, with the avewed design to take him into the dominions of Austria. Our consul at Smyrna and legation at Constantinople interposed for his release, but their efforts were ineffectual,-While thus imprisoned, Commander Ingraham, with the United States ship of war St. Louis, arrived at Smyrna, and, after inquiring into the cirmistances of the case, came to the conclusion that Koszta was entitled to the protection of this government, and took energetic and prompt measures for his release. Under an arrangement between the which, all being of themselves well constituted

the prisoner, a disavowal of the acts of its agents and satisfaction for the alleged outrage. After a careful consideration of the case, I came to the conclusion that Koszia was seized without legal authority at Smyrns; that he was wrongfally detailed on board the Austrian brig of war, that, at the time of his seizure, he was clothed with the nationality of the United States; and that the acts of our offijustifiable, and their conduct has been fully approved by me, and a compliance with the several

For a more full account of this transaction and my views in regard to it, I refer to the corresponace between the charge d'affaires of Austria and the Secretary of State, which is herewith transmitted. The principles and policy, therein maintained on the part of the United States, will whenever a

proper occasion occurs be applied and enforced.

The condition of China, at this time, renders in probable that some important changes will occur in that vast empire, which will lead to the more unrestricted intercourse wih it. The commissione to that country, who has been recently appointed, is instructed to avail himself of all occasions to open and extend our commercial relations, not only with the Empire of China, but with other Asiatic

In 1852, an expedition was sent to Japan, under the command of Commodore Perry, for the purpose of opening commercial intercourse with that sland. Intelligence has been received of his arrifor meeting the demands of humanity have been val there, and of his having made known to the Emperor of Japan the object of his visit; but it is not yet ascertained how far the Emperor will be disosed to abandon his restrictive policy and open that populous country to a commercial intercourse with the United States.

It has been my earnest desire to maintain friendintercourse with the governments upon this continent, and to aid them in preserving good understanding among themselves. With Mexico, a dispute has arisen as to the true boundary line between our territory of New Nexico and the Mexican State of Chiliunhua. A former commissioner of the United States, employed in running that line pursuant to the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, made a serious mistake in determining the initial point on the Rio Grande; but inasmuch as his decision was clearly a departure from the directions for tracing the boundary contained in that treaty, and was not concurred in by the surveyor appointed on the part of the United States, whose concurrence was necessary to give validity to that decision, this government is not concluded thereby; but that of Mexico takes a different view of the subject,

There are also other questions of considerable magnitude pending between the two republics.— Our minister in Mexico has ample instructions to adjust them. Negotiations have been opened, but sufficient progress has not been made therein to enable me to speak of the probable result. Impressed with the importance of maintaining amicable relations with that republic, and of vielding with liberality to all her just claims, it is reasonable to expeet that an arrangement mutually satisfactory to pending, but there are good reasons to believe that both countries may be concluded, and a lasting friendship between them confirmed and perpetuat-

> Congress having provided for a full mission to the States of Central America, a minister was was sent thither in July last. As yet he has had time to visit only one of these States, (Nicaragua) where he was received in the most friendly manner. It is hoped that his presence and good offices will have a benign effect in composing the dissentions which prevail among them, and in establishing still more intimate and friendly relations between them respectively, and between each of them and the United States.

Considering the vast regions of this continent, and the number of States which would be made accessible by the free navigation of the river Amazon, particular attention has been given to this subject. Brozil, through whose territories it passes into the ocean, has hitherto persisted in a policy so restrictive in regard to the use of the river, as to obstruct, and nearly exclude, foreign commercial intercourse with the States which lie upon its tributaries and upper branches. Our minister to that country is instructed to obtain a relaxation of that policy, and to use his efforts to induce the Brazilian government to open to common use, under proper safeguards, this great natural highway for international trade. Several of the South American States are deeply interested in this attempt to secure the free navigation of the Amazon, and is reasonable to expect their co-operation in this measure. As the advantages of free commercial intercourse among nations are better understood, more liberal views are generally entertained as to the common rights of all to the free use of those means which nature has provided for international communication. To these more liberal and enlightened views, it is hoped that Brazil will conform her policy, and remove all unnecessary restrictions upon the free use of a river which traverses so many States and so large a part of the continent. I am happy to inform you that the republic of Paraguay and the Argentine Confederation have yielded to the liberal policy still resisted by Brazil, in regard to the navigable rivers within their respective territories .-Treaties embracing this subject among others have been negotiated with these governments, which will be submitted to the Senate at the pre-

A new branch of commerce, important to the agricultural interests of the United States, has, within a few years past, been opened with Peru. Notwithstanding the inexhaustible deposits of guano upon the islands of that country, considerable difficulties are experienced in obtaining the requisite supply. Measures have been taken to renove these difficulties, and to secure a more abundant importation of the article. Unfortunately, there has been a serious collision between our citizens, who have resorted to the Chincha Islands for it, and the Peruvian authorities stationed there. Redress for the outrages committed by the latter, was promptly demanded by our minister at Lima. This subject is now under consideration, and there is rearon to believe that Peru is disposed to offer adequate indemnity to the ag-

prieved parties. We are thus not only at peace with all foreign countries, but, in regard to political affairs, are exempt from any cause of serious disquietude in our

The controversies which have agitated the country heretofore, are passing away with the causes which produced them, and the passions which they had awakened; or, if any trace of them remains, it may be reasonably hoped that it will only be perceived in the zealous rivalry of all good citizens to testify their respect for the rights of the States. their devotion to the Union, and their common determination that each one of the States, its institutions, its welfare, and its domestic peace, shall be held alike secure under the sacred ægis of the constitution.

This new league of amity and of mutual confidence and support, into which the people of the Republic have entered, happily affords inducement and opportunity for the adoption of a more comprehensive and unembarrassed line of policy and action, as to the great material interests of the country, whether regarded in themselves, or in connection with the powers of the civilized world. The U. S. havecontinued gradually and steadily

o expand, through acquisitions of territory, which, low much soever some of them may have been questioned, are now universally seen and admitted to have been wise in policy, just in character, and a great element in the advancement of our counry, and, with it. of the human race, in freedom, in rosperity, and in happiness. The thirteen States have grown to be thirty-one, with relations reaching to Europe on the one side, and on the other, to

the distant realms of Asia. I am deeply sensible of the immense responsibility which the present magnitude of the Republic, and the diversity and multiplicity of its interests, devolves upon me; the alleviation of which, so far as relates to the immediate conduct of the public business is, first, in my reliance on the wisdom and patriotism of the two Houses of Congress; and, secondly, in the directions afforded me by the principles of public polity, affirmed by our fathers of the epoch of 1798, sanctioned by long experi-

ence, and consecrated anew by the overwhelming voice of the people of the United States. Recurring to these principles, which constitute the organic basis of union, we perceive that, vast as are the functions and the daties of the federal government, vested in, or entrusted to, its three great departments, the legislative, executive, and judicial, yet the substantive power, the popular force, and the large capacities for social and material development, exist in the respective States, powers conferred on it by the constitution, chiefly | nineteen acres; and the amount received therefor.

the effective democracy of the nation, and there the sital essence of its being and its greatness.

Of the practical consequences which flow from

the nature of the federal government, the primary one is the daty of administering with integrity and fidelity the high trust reposed in it by the constitution, especially in the application of the public funds, as drawn by texation from the people, and appropriated to specific objects by Congress. Happily I have no occasion to suggest any radical changes in the financial policy of the government. Ours is almost, if not absolutely, the solitary pow- and eighty-four thousand six hundred and forty er of Christendom having a surplus revenue, drawn immediately from imposts on commerce, and therefore measured by the spontaneous enterprise and national prosperity of the country, with such indirect relation to agriculture, manufactures, and the products of the earth and sea, as to violete no constitutional doctrine, and yet vigorously promote the general welfare. Neither as to the ources of the public treasure, nor as to the manner of keeping and managing it, does any grave controversy now prevail, there being a general ac-

quiesence in the wisdom of the present system. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will exhibit, in detail, the state of the public finances, and the condition of the various branches of the public service administered by that department of the government.

The revenue of the country, levied almost insensibly to the tax-payer, goes on from year to year creasing beyond either the interests or the prospective wents of the government.

At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 852, there remained in the treasury a balance of ourteen million six hundred and thirty-two thousand one hundred and thirty-six dollars. The public revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1853. amounted to fifty-eight million nine hundred and hirty-one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five dollars from customs, and to two million four hundred and five thousand seven hundred and eight dollars from public lands and other miscellaneous ources, amounting together to sixty-one million hree hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred and seventy-four dollars; while the public expenditures for the same period, exclusive of yments on account of the public debt amounted o forty-three million five hundred and fifty-four thousand two hundred and sixty-two dollars; leaving a balance of thirty-two million four hundred and twenty-five thousand four hundred and fortyseven dollars of receipts above expenditures.

This fact of increasing surplus in the treesury, became the subject of anxious consideration at very early period of my administration, and the path of duty in regard to it seemed to me obvious and clear, namely: first, to apply the surplus revenue to the discharge of the public debt, so far as it could judiciously be done; and, secondly, to devise means for the gradual reduction of the revenue to the standard of the public exigencies.

Of these objects, the first has been in the cour of accomplishment, in a manner and to a degree nighly satisfactory. The amount of the debt, of all classes, was, on the 4th of March, 1853, sixty-nine million one hundred and ninety-thousand and thirty-seven dollars; payments on account of which have been made, since that period, to the amount of twelve million seven hundred and three thousand three hundred and twenty-nine dollars, leaving unpaid, and in the continuosu course of quidation, the sum of fifty-six million four hunired and eighty-six thousand seven hundred and eight dollars. These payments, although made at the market price of the respective classes of stocks, have been effected readily, and to the general advantage of the treasury, and have at the same time proved of signal utility in the relief they have in-cidentally afforded to the money market, and to the industrial and commercial pursuits of the country. The second of the above-mentioned objects, that

of the reduction of the tariff, is of great importance, and the plan suggested by the Secretary of the Treasury, which is to reduce the duties on certain articles, and add to the free list many articles now taxed, and especially such as enter into manufactures, and are not largely, or at all, produced in the country, is commended to your candid and careful consideration

You will find in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, also, abundant proof of the entire adequacy of the present fiscal system to meet all the properly administered, it operates to the advantage f the community in ordinary business relations.

I respectfully ask your attention to sundry suggestions of improvements in the settlement of ac counts, especially as regards the large sums of outstanding arrears due to the government, and of other reforms in the administrative action of his department, which are indicated by the Secretary; as also to the progress made in the construction of marine hospitals, custom-houses, and of a new mint in California and assay office in the city of New York, heretofore provided for by Congress; and also to the eminently successful progress of the Const Survey, and of the Light-house Board.

Among the objects meriting your attention will e important recommendations from the Secretaries of War and Navy. I am july satisfied that the navy of the United States is not in a condition of strength and efficiency commensurate with the magnitude of our commercial and other interests; and commend to your especial attention the suggestions on this subject, made by the Secretary of the Navy. I respectfully submit that the army, which, under our system, must always be regarded with the highest interest, as a nucleus around which the volunteer forces of the nation gather in the hour of danger, requires augmentation, or modification, to adapt it to the present extended limits and frontier relations of the country, and the condition of the Indian tribes in the interior of the continent; the necessity of which will appear in the communications of the Secretaries of War and the

Interior. In the administration of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1853, th gross expenditure was seven million nine hundred and eighty-two thousand seven hundred and fiftysix dollars; and the gross receipts, during the same period, five million nine hundred and forty-two thousand seven hundred and thirty-four dollars; showing that the current revenue failed to meet the current expenses of the department by the sum of two million forty-two thousand and thirty-two dollars. The causes which, under the present postal system and laws, led inevitably to this result, are fully explained by the report of the Postmaster General; one great cause being the enormous rates the department has been compelled to pay for mail service rendered by railroad companies

The exhibit in the report of the Postmaster General of the income and expenditures by mail steamers will be found peculiarly interesting, and of the character to demand the immediate action of Congress.

Numerous and flagrant frauds upon the Pension Bureau have been brought to light within the last year, and, in some instances, merited punishments officted, but, unfortunately, in others, guilty paries have escaped, not through the want of sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction, but in conquence of the provisions of limitation in the ex-

From the nature of these claims, the remoteness in which the proof is, of necessity, furnished, temptations to crime have been greatly stimulated by the obvious difficulties of detection. The defects in the law upon this subject are so apparent, and so fatal to the ends of justice, that your early action relating to it is most desirable.

During the last fiscal year, nine million eight-

undred and nineteen thousand four hundred and eleven acres of the public lands have been surveyed, and ten million three hundred and sixty-three thousand eight hundred and ninety-one acres bro't into market. Within the same period, the sales by public purchase and private entry amounted to one illion eighty-three thousand four hundred and sought. inety-five acres: located under military bounty land warrants, six million one hundred and forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty acres; ocated under other certificates, nine thousand four hundred and twenty-seven acres; ceded to the tween statesmen of eminent ability and patriotism. States as swamp lands, sixteen million six hundred and eighty-four thousand two hundred and fifty three acres; salected for railroad and other objects, under acts of Congress, one million four hunired and twenty-seven thousand four hundred and fifty-seven acres; total amount of lands disposed of within the fiscal year, twenty-five million three hundred and forty-six thousand nine hundred and ninety-two acres; which is an increase in quantity sold, and located under land warrants and grants, of twelve million two hundred and thirtyone thousand eight hundred and eighteen acres over the fiscal year immediately preceding. The quantity of land sold during the second and third quarters of 1852, was three hundred and thirty-four | culty of bringing back the operations of the govthousand four hundred and fifty-one acres. The amount received therefor, was six hundred and | up in 1798, and marked it as an admountery proof

ing warrants, is four million seven hundred and seventy-eight thousand one bundred and twenty

Warrants have been Issued to 30th Sentember last, under the act of 11th February, 1847, calling for twelve million eight hundred and seventynine thousand two hundred and eighty acres; under acts of September 28, 1850, and March 22, 1852, calling for twelve million five hundred and five thousand three hundred and sixty acres; making a total of twenty-five million three hundred

It is believed that experience has verified the wisdom and justice of the present system, with regard to the public domain, in most essential par-

You will perceive from the report of the Secretary of the Interior, that opinions, which have often been expressed in relation to the operation of the land system, as not being a source of revenue to the federal treasury, were erroneous. The net profits from the sale of the public lands to June 30, 1853, amounted to the sum of fifty-three million two hundred and eighty-nine thousand four hundred and sixty-five dollars.

I recommend the extension of the land system over the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, with such modifications as their peculiarities may

Regarding our public domain as chiefly valuable to provide homes for the industrious and enterprising, I am not prepared to recommend any essential change in the land system, except by modifications in favor of the actual settler, and an extension of the pre-emption principle in certain cases, for reasons and on grounds, which will be fully developed in the reports to be laid before

Congress, representing the proprietors the territorial domain, and charged especially with power to dispose of territory belonging to the United States, has, for a long course of years, beginning with the administration of Mr. Jefferson, exercised the power to construct roads within the territories; and there are so many and obvious distinctious between this exercise of power and that of making roads within the States, that the former has never been considered subject to such objections as apply to the latter, and such may now be considered the settled construction of the power of the federal government upon the sub-

Numerous applications have been, and no doubt will continue to be, made for grants of land, in sid of the construction of railways. It is not believed to be within the intent and meaning of the onstitution, that the power to dispose of the public domain, should be used otherwise than might be expected from a prudent proprietor, and, therefore, that grants of land to aid in the construction of roads should be restricted to cases, where it would be for the interest of a proprietor, under like circumstances, thus to contribute to the onstruction of these works. For the practical peration of such grants thus far, in advancing the sterests of the States in which the works are located and at the same time the substantial interests of all the other States, by enhancing the value and promoting tue rapid sale of the public domain, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior. A careful examination, however, will show that this experience is the result of a just discrimination, and will be far from affording encouragement to a reckless or indiscriminate extension of the principle.

I commend to your favorable consideration the nen of genius of our country, who, by their inventions and discoveries in science and art, have contributed largely to the improvements of the age, without, in many instances, securing for themselves anything like an adequate reward. For many interesting details upon this subject I refer you to the appropriate reports, and especially urge pon your early attention the apparently slight, but really important, modifications of existing laws therein suggested.

The liberal spirit which has so long marked the action of Congress in relation to the District of Columbia will, I have no doubt, continue to be manifested.

The erection of an asylum for the insane of the requirements of the public service, and that, while | District of Columbia and of the army and navy of the United States, has been somewhat retarded, by the great demand for materials and labor during the past summer; but full preparation for the reception of patients, before the return of another winter, is anticipated; and there is the best reason to believe, from the plan and contemplated arrangements which have been devised, with the large experience furnished within the last few years in relation to the nature and treatment of the disease, that it will prove an asylum indeed to this most helpless and afflicted lass of sufferers, and stand as a noble monument of wisdom and mercy.

Under the acts of Congress of August 21st, 1852, and of March 3d, 1853, designed to secure for the cifies of Washington and Georgetown an abundant supply of good and wholesome water, it became my duty to examine the report and plans of the engineer who had charge of the surveys under the act first named. The best, if not the only plan, calculated to secure permanently the object sought, was that which contemplates taking the water from the Great Falls of the Potomac, and, consequently, I

gave to it my approval. For the progress and present condition of this im portant work, and for its demands, so far as approriations are concerned, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of War.

The present judicial system of the United States as now been in operation for so long a period of time, and has, in its general theory, and much of its details become so familiar to the country, and acuired so entirely the public confidence, that if modfield in any respect, it should only be in those particulars which may adapt it to the increased extent, pulation, and legal business of the United States. In this relation the organization of the courts is now onfessedly inadequate to the duties to be performed them; in consequence of which the States of Florida, Wisconsin, Iowa, Texas, and California and districts of other States, are in effect excluded from the full benefits of the general system, by the octions of the circuit court being develved on the

strict judges in all those States, or parts of States. The spirit of the constitution and a due regard to istice require that all the States of the Union should placed upon the same footing in regard to the judical tribunals. I therefore commend to your consideration this important subject; which, in my judgment, demands the speedy action of Congress. will present to you, if deemed desirable, a plan, which I am prepared to recommend, for the enlargement and modification of the present judicial

The act of Congress establishing the Smithsonian Institution, provided that the President of the United States, and other persons therein designated, should constitute an 'establishment' by that name, and that the members should hold stated and special peetings for the supervision of the affairs of the Institution. The organization not having taken place, it seemed to me proper that it should be effected without delay. This has been done; and an occasion was thereby presented for inspecting the conof the tribunals to pass upon them, and the mode | dition of the Institution, and appreciating its successful progress thus far, and its high promise of great and general usefulness.

I have omited to ask your favorable consideration for the estimates of works of a local character in twenty-seven of the thirty one States, amounting to one million seven hundred and fifty-four usand five hundred dollars, because independently of the grounds which have so often been urged against the application of the federal revenue for works of this character, inequality with consequent injustice is inherent in the nature of the proposition and because the plan has proved entirely inadequate to the accomplishment of the objects

The subject of internal improvements, claiming alike the interest and good will of all, has nevertheless, been the basis of much political discussion, and has stood as a deep graven line of divisions be-The rule of strict construction of all powers delegated by the States to the general government has arrayed itself, from time to time, against the rapid progress of expenditures from the national treasury on works of a local character within the States, Memorable as an epoch in the history of this subect is the message of President Jackson, of the 27th of May, 1830, which met the system of internal improvements in its comparative infancy; but so rapid had been its growth, that the projected eriations in that year for works of this character had risen to the alarming amount of more than one hundred million dollars.

In that message the President admitted the diffiernment to the construction of the constitution set turn, and run her off to Canada. Upon her arrival agents of the United States and of Austria, he was republics, as they preceded, so they alone are ca-

> Our government exists under a written compact between sovereign States, uniting for specific objects,

its most earnest advocates, should suggest the inquity whether there may not be a plan likely to be the protection of foreign commerce, I submit to ou, whether it may not be safely anticipated that, if the policy were once settled against appropriations by the general government for local improvements for the benefit of commerce, localities requiring expenditures would not, by modes and means clearly legitimate and proper, raise the fund necessary for such constructions as the safety or other interests of their commerce might require.

If that can be regarded as a system which in the experience of more than thirty years, has at no time so commanded the public judgment as to give it the character of a settled policy,—which, though it has produced some works of conceded importance, has been attended with an expen quite disproportionate to their value,-and has resulted in squandering large sums upon objects which have answered no valuable purpose,—the nterests of all the States require it to be abanoned, unless hopes may be indulged for the future which find no warrant in the past,

With an anxious desire for the completion of the works which are regarded by all good citizens with sincere interest, I have deemed it my duty to ask at your hands a deliberate consider the question, with the hope that, animated by a desire to promote the permanent and substantial inerests of the country, your wisdom may prove which, applied to this subject, may promise so thing better than constant strife, the suspension of the powers of local enterprise, the exciting of vain hopes, and the disappointment of cherished expec-

In expending the appropriations made by the last Congress, several cases have arisen in relation to works for the improvement of harbors, which involve questions as to the right of soil and jurisdiction; and have threatened conflict between the authority of the State and general governments -The right to construct a breakwater, jetty, or dam, would seem, necessarily, to carry with it the power to protect and tpreserve such constructions. can only be effectually done by having jurisdiction over the soil. But no clause of the constitution is found, on which to rest the claim of the United States to exercise jurisdiction over the soil of a State, except that conferred by the eighth section of the first article of the constitution. It is, then, submitted, whether, in all cases where constructions are to be erected by the general government, the right of soil should not first be obtained, and legislative provision be made to cover all such cases. For the progress made in the construction of

roads within the territories, as provided for in the appropriations of the last Congress, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of War. There is one subject of a domestic nature, which, from its intrinsic importance, and the many inter-esting questions of future policy which it involves,

annot fail to receive your early attention. I allusie to the means of communication, by which different parts of the wide expanse of our country are to be placed in closer connexion for purposes both of deence and commercial intercourse, and more especially such as appertain to the communication of those great divisions of the Union, which lie on the osite sides of the Rocky Mountains.

That the government has not been unn this beretofore, is apparent from the aid it has afforded, through the appropriations for mail facilities and other purposes. But the general subject will now present itself under aspects more imposing and more purely national, by reason of the surveys ordered by Congress, and now in the process of completion, for communication by railway across the continent, and wholly within the limits of the Uni-

The power to declare war, to raise and support armies, to provide and maintain a mavy, and to call forth the militia to execute the laws, suppress to provide for the common defence, and to protect a territory and a popnlation now widespread and vastly multiplied. As this power, it must sometimes be necessary to construct military roads and protect harbors of refuge. To appropriations by Congress for such objects no sound objection can be raised. Happily for our country, its peaceful policy and rapidly increasing population impose upon as no urgent ne sity for preparation, and leave but few trackless deserts between assailable points, and a patriotic people ever ready and generally able to protect them. These necessary links, the enterprise and energy of our people are steadily and boldly struggling to supply. All experience affirms that, wherever private enterprise will avail, it is most wise for the general government to leave to that and individual watchfulness the location and execution of all means of communication.

The surveys before alluded to were designed to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi to the Pacific ocean. Parties are now in the field making explorations, where previous examinations had not supplied sufficient data, and where there was the best reason to hope the object sought might be found.— The means and time being both limited, it is not to be expected that all the accurate knowledge desired will be obtained, but it is hoped that much and important information will be added to the stock previously possessed, and that partial, if not full reports of the surveys ordered will be received, in time for transmission to the two houses of Congress, on or before the first Monday in February next, as required by the act of appropriation. The magnitude of the enterprise contemplated has aroused, and will donbtless continue to excite, a very general in-

terest throughout the country.

In its political, its commercial, and its military bearings, it has varied, great, and increasing claims to consideration. The heavy expense, the great delay, and, at times, fatality attending travel by either of the isthmus routes, have demonstrated the advantage which would result from interritorial communication by such safe and rapid means as a railroad would supply

These difficulties, which have been encountered in a period of pence, would be magnified and still further increased in time of war. But whilst the embarrassments already encountered, and others under new contingencies to be anticipated, may gerve strikingly to exhibit the importance of such a work, neither these, nor all considerations combined, can have an appreciable value, when weighed against the obligation strictly to adhere to the constitution, and faithfully to execute the powers it

Within this limit and to the extent of the interest of the government involved, it would seem both expedient and proper, if an economical and practicable route shall be found, to aid, by all constitutional means, in the construction of a road, which will unite, by speedy transit, the populations of the Pacific and Atlantic States. To guard against misconception, it should be remarked that, although the power to construct, or aid in the construction of, a road within the limits of a territory is not embarrassed by that question of jurisdiction which would arise within the limits of a State, it is nevertheless held to be of doubtful power, and more than doubtful propriety, even within the limits of a territory, for the general government to undertake to administer the affairs of a railroad, a canal, or other similar constructions; and therefore that its connection with a work of this character should be incidental rather than primary.

I will only add, at present, that, fully appreciating the magnitude of the subject, and solicitous that the Atlantic and Pacific shores of the republic may be bound together by inseparable ties of common interest, as well as of common fealty and attachment to the Union, I shall be disposed, so far as my own action is concerned, to follow the lights of the constitution, as expounded and illustrated by those whose opinions and expositions constitute the standard of my political faith in regard to the | the entire Union, that nothing short of the highest powers of the federal government. It is, I trust, tone and standard of public morality marks every not necessary to say, that no grandeur of enter- part of the administration and legislation of the prise, and no present urgent inducement promisng popular favor, will lead me to disregard those lights, or to depart from that path, which experience has proved to be safe, and which is now radiant with the glow of prosperity and legitimate constitutional progress. We can afford to wait, but we cannot afford to overlook the ark of our security. It is no part of my purpose to give prominence to any subject, which may properly be regarded as set at rest by the deliberate judgment of the peo-

ple. But while the present is bright with promise, and the future full of demand and inducement for the exercise of active intelligence, the past can never be without useful lessons of admonition and instruction. If its dangers serve not as beacons, they will evidently fail to fulfil the eject of a wise design. When the grave shall have closed over all, I ties, may, I trust, be deemed as properly a liverted who are now endeavoring to meet the obligations

resisted from the first by many of the wisest and | But, notwithstanding differences of opinion and sen most patriotic men of the republic, and a policy have timent, which then existed in relation to details and oked constant strife, without arriving at a specific provisions, the acquiescence of distinguished on which can be regarded as satisfactory to citizens, whose devotion to the Union can never b doubted has given renewed vigor to our instit tions, and restored a sense of repose and security to crowned by happier results. Without perceiving the public mind throughout the confederacy. This any sound distinction, or intending to assert any this repose is to suffer no shock during my official riple as opposed to improvements needed for the term if I have power to avert it, those who placed

protection of internal commerce, which does not me here may be assured.

The wisdom of men, who knew what independs ence cost, who had put all at stake upon the issue of the revolutionary struggle,-disposed of the subfact to which I refer in the only way consistent with the union of these States, and with the march of power and prosperity which has made us what we are. It is a significant fact, that from the adoption of the constitution until the officers and soldiers of the revolution had passed to their graves or, through the infirmities of age and wounds, had ceased to participate actively in public affairs, there was not merely a quiet acquiescence in, but a prompt vindication of, the constitutional rights of the States -The reserved powers were scrupulously respected

No statesman put forth the narrow views of essuists to justify interference and agitation, but the spirit of the compact was regarded as sourced in the eye of honor, and indispensable for the great experiment of civil liberty, which, environed by inherent difficulties, was yet borne forward in apparent weakness by a power superior to all obsta-cles. There is no condemnation, which the voice of freedom will not pronounce upon us, should we prove faithless to this great trust. While men in habiting different parts of this vast continent can no more be expected to hold the same opinious, or entertain the same sentiments, than every pariet of climate or soil can be expected to furnish the same agricultural products, they can unite in a

common object and sustain common principles es-sential to the maintenance of that object. The gallant men of the south and the north could stand together during the struggle of the Revolution; they could stand together in the more trying period which succeeded the clangor of arms As their united valor was adequate to all the trials of the camp and dangers of the field, so their united wisdom proved equal to the greater task of founding, upon a deep and broad basis, institutions, which it has been our privilege to enjoy, and will ever be our most sacred duty to sustain. It is but the feeble expression of a faith strong and univer sal, to say that their sons, whose blood mingled so often upon the same fields, during the war of 1812 and who have more recently borne in triumph the flag of our country upon a foreign soul, will never mit alienation of feeling to weaken the power of their funited efforts, nor internal dissensions to paralyze the great arm of freedom, uplifted for the vindication of self-government.

I have thus briefly presented such auggestion as seem to me especially worthy of your consideration. In providing for the present, you can hardly fail to avail yourselves of the light, which the experies of the past casts upon the future.

The growth of our population has now brought us, in the destined career of our national history, to a point at which it well behoeves us to expans our vision over the vast prespective.

The successive decennial returns of the census since the adoption of the constitution have revealed a law of steady progressive development, which

may be stated, in general terms, as a duplication every quarter-century. Carried forward, from the point already reached, for only a short period of ime as applicable to the existence of a nation this law of progress, if unchecked, will bring us to A large allowance for a diminished proportions effect of emigration would not very materially reduce the estimate, while the increased average duration of human life, known to have already resulted from the scientific and hygienic improvements of the past fifty years, will tend to keep

up through the next fifty, or perhaps hundred, the same ratio of growth, which has been thus revealed in our past progress, and to the influence of these causes may be added the influx of laboring masses from eastern Asia to the Pacific side of our sessions, together with the probable accession of the populations already existing in other parts of our hemisphere, which, within the period in questice insurrections, and repel invasions, was conferred | will feel, with yearly increasing lorce, the nature confederation of self-go seek the privilege of being admitted within its safe incidental to and indispensable for the exercise of and happy bosom, transferring with themselves, by a peaceful and healthy process of incorporation, sp cious regions of virgin and exuberant soil, which are destined to swarm with the fast-growing and fast-spreading millions of our race.

These considerations seem fully to justify the presumption, that the law of population above stated will continue to set with undiministed effect, through at least the next half century; and that thousands of persons who have already arrived at maturity, and are now exercising the rights of freemen, will close their eyes on the spectacle of more than one hundred millions of population embraced within the majestic proportions of the American Union. It is not merely us an interesting topic of speculation that I present these views for your consideration. They have important practical bearings upon all the political duties we are called upon to perform. Heretofore, our system of government his worked on what may be termed a miniature scale, in comparison with the development, which it must thus assume, within a future so near at hand, as scarcely to be beyond

the present or the existing generation. It is evident that a confederation so vast and so varied, both in numbers and in territorial extent, in habits and in interests, could only be kept in national cohesion by the strictest fidelity to the principles of the constitution, as understood by those who have adhered to the most restricted construction of the powers granted by the people and the States. Interpreted and applied according to those principles, the great compact adapts itself with perfect case and freedom to an unlimited extension of that benign system of federative self-government, of which it is our glorious and, I trust. immortal charter. Let us, then, with redoubled vigilance, be on our guard against yielding to the temptation of the exercise of doubtful powers, even under the pressure of the motives of conceded temporary advantage, and apparent temporary expedi-

The minimum of federal government, compatible with the maintenance of national unity and efficient action in our relations with the rest of the world, should afford the rule and measure of the construction of our powers under the general clauses of the constitution. A spirit of strict deference to the sovereign rights and dignity of every State, rather a than disposition to subordinate the States into a provincial relation to the central authority, should characterize all our exercise of the respefive powers temporarily vested in us as a sacred trust from the generous confidence of our constitu

In like manner, as a manifestly indispensable condition of the perpetuation of the Union, and of the realization of that magnificent national future adverted to, does the duty become yearly stronger and clearer upon us, as citizens of the several States, to cultivate a fraternal and affectionate spirit, language and conduct, in regard to other States, and in tion to the varied interests, institutions, and habits of sentiment and opinion, which may respectively characterize them. Mutual forbearance, and non-interference in our personal action as citizens, and an enlarged exercise of the most liberal principles of comity in the public dealings of State with State, whether in legislation or in the execution of laws, are the means to perpetuote that confidence and fraternity, the decay of which a mere political union on so vast a scale, could not long sur-

In still another point of view, it is an important practical duty suggested by this consideration of the magnitude of dimensions, to which our political system, with its corresponding machine government, is so rapidly expanding. With in creased vigilance does it require us to coltivate the cardinal virtues of public frugality and official in-tegrity and purity. Public affairs ought to be so conducted that a settled conviction shall pervade general government. Thus will the federal system. whatever expansion time and progress may give it, continue more and more deeply moted in the love

and confidence of the people. That wise economy, which is as far removed from parsimony as from corrupt and corrupting extravagance,—that single regard for the public good, which will frown upon all attempts to approach the treasury with insidious projects of private interest closked under public pretexts,—that sound fiscal administration, which, in the legislative department guards against the dangerous temptations incident to overflowing revenue, and, in the executive, maintains an unsleeping watchfulness against the tendency of all national expenditure to extravagance, -while they are admitted elementary political duto and urged, in view of the more impressive ense